

Erie County Fire Advisory Board

Erie County, New York

Resolution Requesting an Equitable & Dedicated Share Of the New York State Wireless Surcharge

WHEREAS, in 2002 estimates of revenues generated by the State Wireless Service Surcharge projected approximately \$60 million, and

WHEREAS, in 2002-03 New York State will distribute \$20 million from the State Wireless Service Surcharge which is 33% of the total surcharge collected annually, and

WHEREAS, ***that amount will be reduced to \$10 million for state fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-05***, and

WHEREAS, ***the current legislation only authorizes distribution of these funds through 2005***, and

WHEREAS, in 2002 New York State raised the wireless service surcharge to \$1.20 on all wireless telephones with the intent of improving public safety communications throughout New York State, and

WHEREAS, this increase will result in a 70% increase in wireless surcharge revenues amounting to over \$100 million annually,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Erie County Fire Advisory Board calls upon New York State and our representatives to support maintaining the 2002 distribution percentage of 33% of the total surcharge, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Erie County Fire Advisory Board supports the efforts of the Western Region Public Safety Communications Alliance which calls on New York State and our representatives to ***make permanent the 33% of the wireless surcharge received being returned to local governments*** to offset costs associated with upgrading, operating and maintaining wireless public safety answering points and dispatching of public safety providers in response to wireless 911 calls, and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Erie County Fire Advisory Board forward a copy of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki and our New York State Legislative representatives and all others deemed necessary and proper.

February 27, 2003

Secretary
Erie County Fire Advisory Board

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